

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 624

By Sargent

A RESOLUTION recognizing Woodland Farm, a Tennessee Century Farm.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should honor and recognize those exceptional farming families who, through their dedication to the ancient and esteemed traditions of agriculture, have made significant contributions to their respective communities and to this State; and

WHEREAS, the Moran family of Williamson County certainly rank among those estimable Tennessee farming families; Woodland Farm, owned and operated by the family since 1857, has been designated a Tennessee Century Farm in recognition of its long and illustrious history; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Century Farms Program recognizes those families who have owned and farmed the same land for over a century, and also documents and interprets the State's history and culture of farming; and

WHEREAS, located ten miles northwest of Franklin on the old Natchez Trace; the farm was established in 1857 by Sam Houston Moran, who would serve with Napier's Confederate Calvary and be injured at the Battle of Chattanooga during the Civil War, and his wife Margaret Fain Moran; the 175.75-acre farm produced cattle, swine, sheep, corn, and wheat; and

WHEREAS, in 1912, James Walker Moran, one of twelve children born to Sam Houston Moran and Margaret Fain Moran, inherited the farm; he was married to Emma Fly, and the couple had four children; James Walker Moran served as the magistrate for the sixth district for thirty-six years; and

WHEREAS, under James Walker Moran's ownership, the farm became one of the most successful farms in Williamson County, and was expanded to include 1,150-acres of land; and

WHEREAS, James Walker Moran was an investor in the National Bank of Franklin and “lost heavily” when the bank failed during the Great Depression; “by hard work and self-denial, he and Mrs. Moran kept their daughters in school and saved their farm”; and

WHEREAS, in 1973, Ann Elizabeth Moran, the granddaughter of the founder, inherited 195-acres of the original farm; with the help of her brother-in-law, Paul Kinnie, the farm produces tobacco and cattle; and

WHEREAS, numerous original, nineteenth century structures still remain on the property including, the dwelling, buggy house, smokehouse, and barns; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State, the strength of its communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people such as the members of the Moran family, who have demonstrated a deep respect for tradition and hard work and a love for the land; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate owner Ann Elizabeth Moran, whose Woodland Farm has been designated a Tennessee Century Farm, commend Ms. Moran and her family for their dedication to agriculture, and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.